

## Toy Airsoft gun prompts shooting at teen by officer

Published: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

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TROY – A Troy officer is on administrative leave after firing a patrol rifle at a teen playing with what turned out to be a toy gun. “This was a very fortunate incident that it didn’t end in a tragedy,” Troy Police Lt. Michael Lyczkowski.

The toy gun was actually an Airsoft gun, which is made out of metal and shoots plastic bullets. They are sometimes painted black and designed to look like actual firearms. Troy police officials say the incident is being investigated and 11 Airsoft firearms were confiscated following the incident, which happened about 4:33 p.m. Friday.

According to police reports, a motorist heading south on Dequindre spotted a person pointing what appeared to be a shotgun at the driver of a pickup truck in the driveway of a home near Dashwood Street, south of 15 Mile Road.

The motorist called 911 and an officer was dispatched to the home.

The officer saw what appeared to be a person holding a black short barrel shotgun with a pistol grip with both hands in a shooting position, according to reports.

The suspected firearm, police say, was being held at waist level and pointed at someone that was about four to five feet away.

The officer, dressed in uniform, ordered the person to drop the weapon.

The person turned, pointing the suspected weapon at the officer, who then fired his weapon believing the shotgun was real, Lyczkowski said.

No one was injured. Lyczkowski said the officer did shoot at the person believed to be holding a real weapon, saying officers are trained to shoot at a threat. The person holding the suspected weapon is a 17-year-old and lives at the home. The officer determined the shotgun was in fact an Airsoft gun. Eight other juveniles, between the ages of 10 and 17, were also at the house. Officers say they determined the youths were playing a game. The teen told officers he didn’t initially comply with the officer’s demands to drop his weapon, believing it was someone playing the game.

None of the youths were arrested and no one has been charged with a crime.

Lyczkowski said it is normal protocol for an investigation to be launched any time an officer fires a weapon in incidents such as these.

The officer has been with the department since July 2000.

The weapons are being held as evidence, but will mostly likely be returned to their owners following the investigation, Lyczkowski said.